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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Opera bass brings nostalgia to UM stage for Black History Month" (1996). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 13982.
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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

University Communications
Missoula, MT 59812
(406) 243-2522

This release is available electronically on INN (News Net).

Jan. 22, 1996

OPERA BASS BRINGS NOSTALGIA TO UM STAGE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MISSOULA --

Internationally acclaimed opera bass Kevin Maynor will grace a University of Montana stage next month to revive the songs that made legendary film actor and singer Paul Robeson famous in the 1920s.

Maynor will present "The Repertoire of Paul Robeson" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, in the Music Recital Hall. His free concert, sponsored by the 1995-96 President's Lecture Series in conjunction with UM's Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, will mark the beginning of Black History Month on the UM campus.

Robeson, also a bass, was known for his renditions of spirituals. His most famous song was "Ol' Man River" from the musical "Showboat" in 1928.

Maynor has performed in more than 40 operas in five languages, frequently in the role of a king, as in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and "Aida." Critics have hailed him as "impressively regal and brilliant" and his voice as "dark, rich, booming and powerful."

"He is a stunningly talented young man," said Richard Drake, UM history professor and lecture series organizer. "His voice is just divine, just enrapturing."

A Fulbright scholarship winner, Maynor became the first apprentice artist from the West to study at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia. He has performed with the Chicago Lyric Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Virginia Opera, New York Lyric Opera and Chicago Opera Theater.

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Maynor was discovered at age 16 while singing doo-wop with some friends in the hall of his New York City high school. The band director heard his voice and hustled Maynor to the principal's office--not because he was in trouble, but because he wanted the principal to hear the rich bass. The principal took him to sing at the Manhattan School of Music, where Maynor's singing career was launched with a scholarship.

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Contact: Richard Drake, 243-2981. Kevin Maynor can be reached through Herbert Barrett Management, (212) 245-3530, weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

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